

under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE RESOLUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my intense disappointment with the decision by the Republican leadership today to pull the Armenian genocide resolution from consideration by the House of Representatives for the remainder of this session of Congress.

The Speaker promised to bring this resolution to the floor. His stated reason for not doing so is a request by President Clinton that it not be considered. Mr. Speaker, the State Department and President Clinton have opposed recognition of the Armenian genocide from day one. We all know that the State Department repeatedly uses national security as the reason to oppose most things Armenian.

What is really going on here is that the Speaker and the President and, therefore, the government of these United States, both Executive and Legislative, have succumbed to the threat of the Turkish government, threats by that government against American soldiers and American lives.

Mr. Speaker, this is shameful. Turkey is a bully. We have America, the most powerful country in the world, being told by the Republic of Turkey what we can talk about and what we can think, not only with regard to human rights violations, but with regard to the most heinous crime against humanity, genocide.

I would like to know what kind of ally threatens American lives if it does not get its way. With friends like that, as the saying goes, who needs enemies. It is not as if Turkey's membership in NATO and assistance as part of the NATO alliance only helps the United States. Turkey allows NATO to use its bases against Iraq because of Iraq's threats to Turkey, not Iraq's threats to the United States. Turkey allows NATO to use its bases out of its own self-interest.

If Turkey is going to abrogate all of its bilateral and multilateral agreements over the Armenian genocide resolution, well I do not think that is going to happen. I think not. These agreements exist because they are in Turkey's self-interest.

Mr. Speaker, what happened today on the House floor I think sets a terrible precedent. It means that Turkey can threaten us in other areas. For example, they can threaten not to negotiate a settlement on Cyprus and continue to occupy that nation. They can threaten the European Union if that organization does not allow them to become a member despite continued human rights violations against the Kurds and other minorities.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard these same Turkish threats before. In 1996,

for example, this body voted overwhelmingly, 268 to 153, to adopt an amendment to reduce U.S. assistance to Turkey until it recognized the Armenian genocide.

The doomsday scenarios that the opponents of the resolution predicted in 1996 did not occur. I do not believe they would have occurred today if we had passed the Armenian genocide resolution.

The relationship between the United States and Turkey is mutually beneficial. It is simply not in Turkey's national interest to sever relations with the United States over a House Resolution.

This brings me back, Mr. Speaker, to the Armenian genocide resolution and the importance I believe it plays in our overall foreign policy. If America is going to live up to the standards we set for ourselves and continue to lead the world in affirming human rights everywhere, we need to stand up and recognize the Armenian catastrophe for what it was, the systemic elimination of a people.

The fact of the Armenian genocide is not in dispute. The fact that the American record on the U.S. response to the Armenian genocide is not in dispute and House Resolution 596 affirms these facts. The only step left is to reject the deniers of the genocide.

As Members of Congress, we should not ignore our Nation's history at the insistence of an ally out of geopolitical convenience. Congress should not be forced by a foreign government to deny or ignore the U.S. record and response to the events that took place in the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923.

If the House of Representatives cannot speak to our historical experience because of threats from a foreign government, then what message do we send to our friends and our enemies alike?

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), Speaker of the House, to basically reconsider his decision and to allow House Resolution 596 to come to the floor. I assure the Speaker that it will pass overwhelmingly. The votes were there today if the Speaker had only let the resolution come to the floor.

To do anything else would establish a dangerous precedent for how history will be recorded with regard to current and future actions of Congress and the administration in response to man's inhumanity to man.

The bottom line, Mr. Speaker, is, if we do not recognize the Armenia genocide, other genocides will occur. The fact of the matter is that those who forget history are condemned to repeat it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CANADY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CANADY of Florida addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. STABENOW addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. PRYCE of Ohio addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CONGRATULATING CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY DOMINGUEZ HILLS ON 40TH ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate one of the premier universities within the California State University system, Cal State Dominguez Hills, located in my district, on 40 years of exemplary higher learning.

In its 40th-year celebration, we reflect back on the many who have passed through her doors. California State University has produced over 29,000 graduates with baccalaureate degrees, 12,000 graduates with master's degrees, and 12,000 elementary and secondary school credentialed teachers.

Cal State Dominguez Hills is known throughout the State of California as the highest producer of credentialed teachers of any university in the State of California.

The student body of Cal State Dominguez Hills is the most diverse in the State and possibly in the country, reflecting the richness of a multicultural society.

The University is celebrating its 40th anniversary under the leadership of a newly appointed president, Dr. James E. Lyons, Sr. Dr. Lyons brings 16 years of presidential experience to the campus. He has served as president of Jackson State University in Mississippi and Bowie State University in Maryland.

An integral part of Dr. Lyon's vision for Dominguez Hills is building a model community. The community places emphasis on building partnerships that benefit the community and its people, focusing not only on their educational and cultural needs, but also serving as a major research institution for community and economic development.

In an effort to extend its services and resources into the community it serves, Cal State Dominguez Hills was the first in the Nation to develop a distance learning program. Forbes Magazine named Cal State Dominguez Hills one of the top 20 "cyber" universities in the country.

The distance learning program offers timely degree and certificate programs